

that much. The same reason applies to those who are Christians, but do not grow in grace. *Hunger and thirst after righteousness*, is the condition of being filled. Eph. 3:19.

Fifth Beatitude

"Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy." Like begets like. Only those who show mercy have the moral characteristics which obtain mercy. Mercy is another grace which the world did not have when Jesus came. Men despised the merciful as weak. Jesus pronounced the merciful blessed. If you will not forgive the wrong another has done you, how shall God have mercy upon you? If you oppress those whom you have in your power and refuse to show them, mercy, how can you beg for mercy from God?

Sixth Beatitude

"Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." Not only those pure in outward acts, but also "in heart." Jesus strikes for the source of outward conduct. If the heart is pure, the life will be. If the heart is not pure the life may seem pure, but the evil heart will sometime show its fruits in the life. Be sure your heart is pure, then you need not worry about the externals.

"My strength is as the strength of ten,
Because my heart is pure."

Only such can see God. Only such can behold God's wondrous works here and now; see him in the marvels of his providence; see him overruling all things to his glory. And only the pure in heart can see God in the great beyond. How terrible for us to be banished from God's presence in eternity!

Seventh Beatitude

"Blessed are the peace-makers; for they shall be called the sons of God." How true that is! Our reason tells us that school boys who always are stirring up a fight, that tattlers who excite quarrels, that neighbors who make quarrels in a neighborhood, and that nations who make war rather than seek peace, are not sons of God, but of the devil. Seek to make peace rather than strife. Such are called sons of God. Those who seek to bring the peace of Christ to sin tossed souls are sons of God. James 5:20; Dan. 3:12.

Eighth Beatitude

The persecuted for righteousness' sake are called unfortunate. Christ says they are blessed. The world pities or curses them. Christ says they are to "rejoice and be exceeding glad," for great is their reward in heaven. How some of us Christians have shuned to do anything that would call persecution upon us! We do not try to lead others to Christ for fear of persecution, of losing our good name and popularity! We do not, perhaps, teach our distinctive doctrines for fear of being laughed at! Let us deserve this "blessed." Some do not accept Christ for fear of the scoffs of friends. All such cannot expect to receive the promise, "Great is your reward in heaven."

Remarks

In all these "blesseds" Jesus declared that those are blessed whom the world never dreamed of counting such. But when we look deeper into the heart of things, we can see that Jesus is right and the world wrong.

Lesson Applied

1. Jesus' miracles attracted the people to him, then he taught them.
2. Jesus blessed those whom the world scorns and curses.
3. The blessings of Christ are for both this world and the next. Mark 10:29, 30.
4. Are you poor in spirit rather than proud in spirit?
5. Are you mourning for your failures and mistakes?
6. Are you meek, or high-spirited?
7. Do you show mercy, or are you unforgiving and harsh?
8. Are you *hungry* and *thirsty* for righteousness, or for money, fame, social position and men's good will.
9. Are you a peace maker, or a strife-maker; are you by your example keeping men from the "peace of God," or helping them to "have peace with God?"
10. Are you persecuted for righteousness' sake? If not, read II Tim. 3:12. If you are persecuted, are you rejoicing, or lamenting?
11. Christ's foundation principles are contrary to the world's.

Church News

Christianity's Outlook

Christian Advocate.

The Sun of righteousness has not yet risen upon the whole world. Entire continents still sit in darkness. We are told by some that Christianity has spent its force. These doubters admit that the Gospel has been a benediction to mankind. They concede that it has brought light and happiness to millions. It has driven away fear superstition, and ignorance. It has redeemed many from wretchedness and sin. But they believe that it has had its day and done all it shall ever be able to do, and henceforth the world must look to some other enlightening and quickening agency.

Not a few Christians regard the outlook for Christianity exceedingly gloomy. They believe that the world is growing worse. They declare that even in those countries where the highest degree of civilization and culture prevails political corruption, commercial dishonesty, social vice, and moral depravity are on the increase, and that the churches are all overrun by worldliness, that Christians are eaten up with selfishness and ambition, that wrongdoing is condoned by the highest officials in those who will contribute large sums of money for the various benevolent enterprises of the church, and that the darkness deepens on every side.

Many Christians frankly admit that they do not expect the whole world to be brought to Christ under the Gospel dispensation. It

is a part of their creed that the preaching of the Gospel is not intended to convert and save the whole world, but, only to raise up witnesses in every nation, and that when this message shall have been proclaimed to the ends of the earth for a testimony the dispensation shall come to an end, and Christ shall come and gather His saints about Him and reign for a thousand years, and at the end of that period close up the history of the race with a grand conflagration.

This does not seem to us to be the hope of the Gospel. The promise of God extends to the whole world. Righteousness shall cover the earth. There shall be no end to the dominion of the Son of God. It has been said that the darkest hour is just before day. This may not be exactly correct, but whatever be the present condition of the church and the world, Christians have no reason to be discouraged. Truth does not advance so rapidly as we should like to see it. The fault is not with the truth, but with us. The Church is not what it should be. There are signs of the times which forbode evil. It behooves Christians to watch and pray and labor till the Master comes. It will not do to reply on the promises in such a way as to think it makes no difference what we do.

The signs of the times are not so dark as some men seem to think. Science is advancing with rapid strides. Science will not convert the world, but wherever science goes error and superstition will disappear and make way for the truth of God. Freedom is marching on, and wherever freedom spreads her banner humanity awakes from the slumber of ages and catches a glimpse of a better day. The borders of the kingdom of God are being extended in every direction. The nations are in commotion. Christian nations do many things that are unworthy them, but God so overrules that the final result of every revolution and convulsion is an advance in the kingdom of God among men. War has not ceased, but men look on war in a new light. The king cannot make war to gratify his ambition for conquest as he once could. The people who fight the battles now have something to say. Carnal weapons are far more deadly now than they once were, but carnal weapons are being superseded by the sword of the Spirit. The great revival which shall fill the whole earth with the knowledge of the Lord is hastening on. The thing will be done suddenly. The time is not yet ripe, but the shadow of the dial shall not move backward. The time is nearer than we think when the shout shall ascend from earth to heaven, "Alleluia! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."

Conemaugh, Pa.

One Jan. 23, brother J. F. Koontz left here to begin a revival in Altoona, and before leaving he requested the writer to take his place as a member on a committee appointed to get up remonstrance against the granting of license in our town. There being five applicants for license in our town; it meant